

**BARRINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
281 County Road, Barrington, RI 02806 401/247-1920  
[www.barringtonlibrary.org](http://www.barringtonlibrary.org)



February 22, 2010

## **Report to the Town Council**

*Submitted by Deborah Barchi*

There's wonderful news for Rhode Island's public libraries, including Barrington Public Library. The Ocean State Libraries Network (OSL) has just been informed that they have been successful in their federal stimulus grant. With this grant, public libraries in Rhode Island will receive a total of 600 new computers, to be placed in 50 public libraries; new routers and switches in 71 public library locations; and 10 mobile computer centers for training sites, including 2 at the OSL offices with the capacity for video streaming and archiving of programs. These grants were highly competitive, but we had two factors in our favor. First, the Executive Director and staff of OSL put countless hours and work into submitting the complex grants with every "i" dotted and "t" crossed; and secondly, the Champlin Foundations leveraged the grant request with a whopping commitment of \$354,000, over and above their usual tremendous support to libraries each year. With a request that would benefit so many (remember that nearly a half million people actively use their public libraries in Rhode Island, a number that grows daily) and with such unstinting support from The Champlin Foundations, even in these tough times, how could the Feds say no? We will all see the result of this grant very soon, and benefit for years to come.

You know how passionate I am about libraries, particularly public libraries, and how grateful I am to be pursuing my passion as a public library director. I had the privilege last week to read an essay about my belief in the value of libraries on WRNI. WRNI is Rhode Island's public radio station. You can find it at 1290 AM. If you'd like to hear the essay on your computer, google WRNI to get to their website, then go to the section marked "This I Believe-RI", then click on the essay on libraries. I count our public libraries as being at the top of the heap as far as our many blessings as Americans go. I hope you agree!

Oh, and what's happening at Barrington Library these days? Just more of the same--more people getting library cards, record numbers of books and library materials being borrowed, the computers busy all day long, the auditorium and gallery filled with people of all ages enjoying and learning new things. We've even got the AARP doing free tax returns. And a nostalgic film festival featuring the "Thin Man" series of the 1930's. A local resident who is a gifted sculptor brought in a beautiful table top sculpture of a speed skater to display in the library. It's an inspiring piece, perfect to highlight the recent triumphs of America's Olympic Team. We hope to have it here for at least another week. Please stop by to see it!